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BREAKING: Biden's Interior Department Repeals Last Minute Trump Rules That Undermined the Great American Outdoors Act

Coalition of Western Local Officials Praises Biden's Actions, Says LWCF is Critical to Expanding Access to the Outdoors and Meeting Necessary Climate Goals

Colorado -- This morning, the Department of Interior announced that it would be [rescinding](#) former Secretary David Bernhardt's Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Secretarial Orders that added a litany of arbitrary restrictions on LWCF funding.

The Interior Department's action today restores the intent of the bipartisan Great American Outdoors Act, which includes full and permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and restores the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership program.

In response, **Anna Peterson, Executive Director of The Mountain Pact**, an organization that works with local elected officials in Western mountain communities on public lands policies, issued the following statement:

"Under the Trump Administration, former Interior Secretary David Bernhardt ignored the intent of the Great American Outdoors Act which included full and permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and passed the Senate by an overwhelming 73-25 vote last summer. He did this even though LWCF has been one of America's best conservation programs bringing together both sides of the aisle with five decades of bi-partisan support and thousands of local parks, trails, and ballparks to show for it.

"Bernhardt's Secretarial Order was an intentional violation of Congress, in a last-minute effort to block the successful implementation of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and an attempt to cement the anti-LWCF views we saw from the Trump Administration throughout their four years in office.

"We are deeply grateful that the Biden administration worked quickly to revoke the Trump administration's last minute changes to the Land and Water Conservation Fund to ensure that it continues to operate and function as intended.

"The process and expectations for the Land and Water Conservation Fund that Congress set forth in the bi-partisan Great American Outdoors Act were simple and clear - and we applaud the Biden administration's actions today that repealed Secretary Bernhardt's faulty Secretarial Order

"Make no mistake - the Great American Outdoors Act was landmark legislation, and Congress was clear in its intent. In fact, they repeatedly voted down arbitrary restrictions like those in former Secretary Bernhardt's last minute orders by passing the Dingell Act and the Great American Outdoors Act by overwhelming bipartisan margins.

“We thank the Biden administration for recognizing the simple truth: the majority of Americans and Congress want the full and legal implementation of one of the best pieces of conservation legislation in our lifetime. That means keeping existing LWCF frameworks in place, guaranteeing it the full and permanent \$900M intended for it by law.

“The Land and Water Conservation Fund supports critical conservation tools for communities through the investment in infrastructure and an expansion of outdoor recreation access for all. By restoring the process, the Biden administration is respecting the will of Congress and ensuring that the LWCF can help meet the critical climate and conservation goals that will expand outdoor access for all Americans.”

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Founded in 2014, The Mountain Pact mobilizes local elected officials in over 80 Western mountain communities with outdoor recreation based economies to speak with a collective voice on federal climate, public lands, and outdoor recreation policy.